

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190321
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, MNVC, PARM, CE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON NPT

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE
FROM THE PRESIDENT. ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED.

BEGIN TEXT: JULY 24, 1978

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE I KNOW OF YOUR DEEP CONCERN FOR
WORLD PEACE. BECAUSE OF THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO APPROACH YOU
ON A MATTER THAT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ME AND, I BELIEVE,
TO THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD. IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS, I
PLEDGED TO WORK TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEA-
PONS. FOR OUR PART, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONDUCTED ALMOST
CONTINUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION SINCE 1969.
THESE HAVE RESULTED IN AGREEMENTS SEEKING TO HALT THE
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GROWTH IN STRATEGIC ARMS, AND A NEW SALT AGREEMENT IS EX-
PECTED SOON. I HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE WE CAN CONTINUE TO
REDUCE THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION AND, IN PARTICULAR,
THAT WE WILL COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST
BAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE HISTORY OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

PROVES THAT ONCE NATIONS ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT TO LIMIT THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT. BOTH OUR NATIONS RECOGNIZE THE DANGER TO MANKIND IF MORE NATIONS ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS PLACED SUCH GREAT EMPHASIS ON UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

SINCE THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WAS DEVELOPED OVER 10 YEARS AGO, 104 NATIONS HAVE BECOME PARTIES TO IT. AMONG THEM ARE 78 NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, INCLUDING MALAYSIA, GHANA, YUGOSLAVIA, SIERRA LEONE, JORDAN AND LIBYA. BOTH INDONESIA AND TURKEY STATED AT THE SSOD THAT THEY INTEND TO RATIFY THE TREATY. THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF INSPECTIONS AND CONTROLS WHICH HAVE ALLOWED THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHILE LIMITING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY, THE UNITED STATES HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ACTION TO ENSURE THAT OUR NUCLEAR EXPORTS ARE EVEN MORE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED THAN BEFORE.

IN REVIEWING THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN YOUR LETTER OF MAY 5, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST ACTION WHICH SRI LANKA COULD TAKE TOWARDS OUR SHARED GOAL OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. BY SIGNING THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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1968, SRI LANKA INDICATED ITS SUPPORT FOR ITS PURPOSES. THE RATIFICATION BY SRI LANKA OF THE TREATY WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AS A TRADITIONAL LEADER OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, SRI LANKA WOULD THUS SET AN EXAMPLE TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET ADHERED TO THE TREATY, AND WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO BECOME A PARTY TO IT. RATIFICATION BY YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A POWERFUL AFFIRMATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-PROLIFERATION IN THE EYES OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE STILL INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OPTION OPEN.

SRI LANKA, THROUGH ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE OTHER WORLD BODIES, HAS EARNED AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION OF LEADERSHIP FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACE. I HOPE THAT THROUGH RATIFICATION OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, SRI LANKA WILL JOIN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER NATIONS IN TAKING A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARD OUR SHARED GOAL OF A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

I REGRET THAT WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET, BUT I CONTINUE TO FOLLOW WITH GREAT INTEREST AND

SYMPATHY YOUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LIFE OF YOUR
PEOPLE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE
CONCERNS I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT TODAY BINDS OUR TWO COUNTRIES
AND, I BELIEVE, THE TWO OF US IN COMMON ENDEAVOR. I LOOK
FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUING COOPERATION.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY
JUNIUS RICHARD JAYEWARDENE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
COLOMBO. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED.
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